

PANORAMA

parent newsletter

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Connecting to the World via Southern

“The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page.” –St. Augustine

Hayley Baker, junior psychology and international studies major, took this quote to heart and read additional pages of the world’s book herself when she studied abroad at the Instituto Adventista Villa Aurora in Florence, Italy, last year.

During this time, Hayley learned that education can happen outside the classroom, especially in new countries and cultures. Experiences like studying abroad prepare students for success in careers, relationships, and the Church.

Hayley said one of the defining moments of her year abroad was when she began fluently speaking the language.

“Learning a new language opens a world of possibilities, and once I grasped the Italian language, I grew so connected to Italy and I was more open to all it had to offer,” she said.

Hayley had dreamed of studying abroad in Italy since her freshman year of high school.

During her first year at Southern, she was re-inspired to pursue this dream by a senior who had just returned from a year abroad.

Though Hayley’s parents had always been supportive of mission trips, an entire year abroad made them uneasy in the beginning. She found that having her parents learn more about Southern’s Adventist Colleges Abroad (ACA) program assuaged their concerns.

“After getting more information from the ACA director at Southern, they felt much more comfortable with the idea and were a great support,” she said.

Hayley’s time abroad taught her a new form of independence as well. Realizing she couldn’t run home whenever there was a problem, she learned to rely on herself and her new friends, whom she said became her “Italian sisters.”

“Studying abroad has proven to be the

most amazing experience of my life so far,” she said. “The things that I learned and experienced while in Italy will stay with me for the rest of my life.”

Carlos Parra, chair of the Modern Languages Department and Southern’s ACA coordinator, offers these tips for students who

would like to make the most of studying abroad:

- Respect the way of life of those in the country you are visiting. Remember, you are not in the U.S.
- Make friends with the locals. You will benefit from the exchange of language and culture with them.
- Actually speak the local language. After all, you already know English and before you know it, you’ll be back in the U.S.
- Develop a personal interest in the culture and people. The less you are involved, the more you are perceived as a foreigner.

~by Ingrid Hernandez

Hayley takes a moment to reflect on her year spent in Italy and the memories she made.



Favorite Bible Verse

Malaika Cerna,
sophomore nursing major

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

Did You Know? Evangelistic Resource Center

Regardless of their major, students at Southern can take part in spreading the gospel thanks to the Evangelistic Resource Center (ERC). Since 2001, the program has sent nearly 700 students on short-term summer evangelism mission trips that have led to more than 20,000 baptisms all over the world. This year, students will head to the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Angola, Argentina, and the Philippines.

Before leaving, the ERC prepares students with extensive training. The ERC also arranges transportation, lodging and meals. Though the three-week trips usually cost \$600-\$1,200, students rarely pay the



full amount because the ERC helps extensively with fundraising.

Maricel Zamoras, senior nursing and allied health major, went to Madagascar in 2011 because of “tremendous support” from her home church. Since then, Maricel has taken other mission trips and encourages students to work with the ERC.

“On the trip, you realize it’s not about you anymore,” Maricel said. “You’re doing this because you love God and want to share your faith.”

To learn more about the Evangelistic Resource Center, visit southern.edu/erc.

~by Raquel Levy

Ask The President With Gordon Bietz



Question: What summer tours are available to my student?

Students who attend Southern are not limited to what they can learn locally on campus. There are numerous academic study tours available to your student during the summer break.

The School of Social Work offers students opportunities to participate in several study tours. Tours sponsored by the school include trips to Europe, Africa, New York Study, and a Social Work Issues and Policies trip to Washington D.C. Students involved in these experiences are eligible to receive course credit.

Southern’s Institute of Archeology also sponsors a study tour to the Middle East. This particular tour is designed to familiarize students with the extensive history and cultures of the ancient Near East as they relate to the Bible. The two-week tour encompasses sites representing the entire

span of history, from the earliest periods of civilization to modern times.

In addition to organizing their own New York study tour, the School of Business and Management also offers students a three-week academic trip to China. On this trip, students are immersed in a different culture, meet with executives in large multinational corporations, and learn the true meaning of the term “global marketplace.”

For more information, visit the website of the department sponsoring the tour your student would be most interested in pursuing.

Staff Profile:

Julie Norton Student Missions Coordinator

Julie Norton began working as the student missions coordinator for Southern in 2011. Though she has held her current position for only two years, she has been involved in mission work for more than half her life.

Before joining Southern's staff, Norton lived in Apopka, Florida where her husband pastored. When the student missions coordinator position became available at Southern, Brennon Kirstein, university chaplain, contacted Norton about applying for the job.

"Brennon knew I had a strong passion for mission work, having previously worked and coordinated for student missionary projects," Norton said.

Norton had her first experience in mission work as a student at Southern. She spent two years in Thailand helping set up

a language school current student missionaries still work at today.

"As a student missionary, I was able to experience living in other parts of the world while learning what a life of service is truly about," Norton said.

Norton's missionary work is not limited to the trips she has taken out of the country. While in Florida, she ran a language institute where students from other countries would come to learn English. Also, before she officially joined Southern's staff, Norton and her husband helped prepare student missionaries during the departing and returning process.

"I have always loved working with students who desire to give their time to go and serve," Norton said. "There isn't anything more rewarding than sending an army of young adults out into the world."



Norton's responsibilities include recruiting, educating, and processing outgoing student missionaries while supporting the current and recently returned student missionaries. She is also available around the clock to every student missionary via cell phone or email.

For more information on the student missions program, visit southern.edu/studentmissions.

~by Luke Evans

Student Life: Cultural Clubs on Campus

Marcus Garvey, a political leader from Jamaica, once said, "A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin, and culture is like a tree without roots." Southern is a university composed of many different roots and one of the ways these are represented is through the ethnic student organizations on campus: Asian Club, African Student Union (ASU), Latin-American Club (LAC), and Black Christian Union (BCU).

Asian Club has been around for more than 20 years, hosting annual events such as a welcome back party, spiritual retreat, and Mango Festival. This club, as well as BCU, are the longest standing ethnic organizations on campus. BCU has events similar to Asian Club, but in recent years has made more of an effort to focus on the Christian part of their name, hosting church services, vespers, and worship

where students of all ethnicities can participate.

Shauna Chung is the current Asian Club president. She sees great value in having these organizations.

"Diversity is woven into the fabric of American culture," Chung said. "So, it only makes sense for Southern to celebrate the ethnic variances on campus."

Each of the four clubs host annual culture nights, where they have the opportunity to showcase their customs and traditions to the campus. Each club is also actively involved in community service throughout the year.

This year the four organizations came together to put on a joint Christmas party called "Holiday Blend." Students piled into Iles P.E. Center and enjoyed traditional desserts and drinks from each culture, along with family games. Representing

more than 40 percent of students at Southern, these organizations are about more than just culture.

"Through diversity, we find common ground and take strides toward being a more unified student body," Chung said. "We also foster greater understanding of the world and this is important to Southern's primary purpose: raising up witnesses for Christ."

~by Charles Cammack



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What was your favorite family trip and why?

“One summer we went to Islands of Adventure in Orlando, Florida, and I was able to see a side of my parents I had never seen before.”

- Marc-Anthony Pierre,
sophomore theology major

“Our trip to Jamaica and the Cayman Islands was our first cruise and our first time out of the country together.”

- Corinne Jordan,
sophomore public relations major

“We went to Canada and were stuck in a one-room cabin the whole trip. We really bonded as a result.”

- Kelly Payne,
sophomore nursing major

“I was able to go home to Ghana with my mom last summer. I went there when I was 5 years old, and I only get to visit every now and then.”

- Salomey Agyemang,
senior nursing major

“When I was 11 we took a road trip from Canada to Florida. It took 24 hours and it was my first time traveling to the United States.”

- Kim Quiambao,
senior religious studies and nursing major

APRIL

17 **Symphony Orchestra Tour Begins**

Student musicians travel to Florida to perform for all three services of the Forest Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church.

21 **SA Strawberry Festival**

Southern ends the year with a student-produced film capturing memories from the previous two semesters.

27 **Jazz Ensemble Concert**

MAY

3 **Consecration**

4 **Baccalaureate**

5 **Commencement**

7 **Wind Symphony Tour**

The Pacific Northwest Tour includes Columbia Adventist, Portland Adventist, Puget Sound Adventist, Fountain View and Upper Columbia academies, as well as Sunnyside Seventh-day Adventist Church and Walla Walla University Church.

14 **I Cantori Tour Begins**

The Scandinavian Tour includes the countries of Finland, Sweden, and Norway.

22 **Georgia-Cumberland Camp Meeting**